

**Town of Newfields  
First Session of the 2013 Annual Meeting  
Deliberative Session February 9, 2013**

The deliberative session scheduled for February 9, 2013 was postponed until Monday February 11, 2013 due to bad weather.

John Hayden, Moderator  
Sue McKinnon, Town Clerk

Board of Selectmen  
Tom Hayward  
Michael Woodworth  
John Gajewski (absent)

Moderator John Hayden called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and called for a pledge of allegiance. He introduced the Board and reviewed the rules and procedures of the meeting.

Article 1. Shall the Town of Newfields raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the Warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling one million, three hundred two thousand, four hundred fifty two dollars (\$1,302,452.00)? Should this article be defeated, the default operating budget shall be one million, two hundred seventy five thousand, three hundred one dollars (\$1,275,301.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town of Newfields or by law or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 49:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (Selectmen recommend the \$1,302,452.00 as set forth on said budget)

The Moderator read Article 1. A motion was made by Mike Greeley and seconded by Mike Woodworth to increase the police department salary line by \$5,000 to be paid to the officers to who did not receive a raise or enough money to bring them into the wage scale. The Moderator noted that the increase would have to be added to the overall operating budget and cannot be allocated specifically to police salaries. Mike Greeley withdrew the motion.

Chairman Hayward noted that the town has no wage scale. They are working on creating one and it is in the preliminary discussion phase. This year all employees received a 1.7% cost of living adjustment. There are three full time police officers. One officer received a substantial raise, one officer was just hired, and the remaining officer received a cost of living only.

A motion was made by Mike Greeley and seconded by Gayle Davis to increase the operating budget to \$1,307,452 with the recommendation that the money be used for police salaries. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

Richard Gilbert stated that we have a problem with retaining police officers because other towns are offering more money. We lost 2 full time police officers in the last year. It would be a benefit to the town to be able to retain the officers by paying them more.

Win Fream asked if a budget committee member could comment on the police department budget. Jamie Thompson said the number in the budget is slightly below the amount brought to the budget committee; which adequately supported what the chief wanted to do this year.

David Dwyer asked if the Selectmen would be willing to go ahead and give the raise if the budget passes. Tom Hayward said the Board would. In his opinion, if we try to make our police department wages equal to others it is still difficult to keep the officers because the facilities are not good. Just giving an officer \$5,000 does not insure that he is going to stay in the Town.

Mike Woodworth stated that they asked the chief to put together a pay scale. This year the employee contributions to health insurance increased to 20% which decreased wages. All full time employees received a pay increase but has to pay more for health insurance.

The Chief said the department recently lost an officer for \$2.00 more per hour and another officer was given \$2.00 more per hour after being offered a job in a neighboring town. It costs about \$25,000-\$30,000 to train a new officer.

Bill Podszus commented that we have a unique community and we have to accept that fact. He agrees that we should run the police department as a business.

Gerard Porteus said he can't believe we are losing experience trained people to neighboring towns over \$2.00 per hour. It doesn't make sense.

Ben Freidlin made a motion to increase the operating budget by \$33,000 with the recommendation that the money be put toward the police department to provide full time coverage. Mike Woodworth seconded the motion.

Moderator Hayden did not think this could be done. The public has not been notified of such a change. It would require a much bigger discussion. Tom Hayward commented that it would cost over \$100,000 for a full time police department and we would need a new facility. He does not recommend supporting the motion.

Jackie Horgan indicated that this would be a dangerous road to head own. It doesn't make sense to ask for a random amount of money to make a decision to have the police department full time.

Chief Reed agreed with Chairman Hayward. A full time police department was discussed after the break in that occurred at the Freidlin residence. It would require a vote of the town as a warrant article or at a special town meeting and the hiring of at least two full time officers plus part time officers.

Gayle Davis commented that she supports a full time police department and she is concerned with the idea of outsourcing the police department.

Tom Hayward stated that we currently have coverage from 7am until midnight. We are covered by state police from 12 midnight until 7am. When the new office is done training the town will have coverage 20 hours per day.

Jamie Thompson stated that he served on the police department facilities committee for an entire year. A warrant article was submitted last year for a new police department and the article was vastly defeated. The town does not want to make the investment in the police.

A vote was taken on the motion to add \$33,000 to the operating budget to provide full time coverage of police. The motion failed.

Don Doane made a motion to increase the operating budget by \$ 21,330.00 for a total of \$1,328,782.00. The amount on the proposed budget for interest on our bond payment is one half of what it should be. The motion was seconded by Sue McKinnon and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Sue McKinnon and seconded by Tom Hayward to increase the default operating budget by \$21,330.00 for the same purpose; bond interest. The total default operating budget shall be \$1,296,631.00. All were in favor and the motion carried. Article 1 shall be placed on the ballot as amended.

Article 2. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Road Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of repairing and maintaining town roads? (Recommended by the Selectmen)

The Moderator read Article 2. Chairman Hayward explained that this is the same article as last year. The plan is to put money aside each year to pay for the big ticket items such as the repair and paving of Old Lee Rd and Halls Mill Rd. The \$20,000 is in addition to the highway operating budget.

Richard Gilbert thanked Road Agent Brian Knipstein for the great work he has done over the past year. Article 2 shall be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 3. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000.00) to be placed in the previously established Fire Department

Equipment Expendable Trust Fund for the purpose of purchasing air packs (SCBA)?  
(Recommended by the Selectmen)

The Moderator read Article 3. Fire Chief Jeff Buxton noted that this is the same article as last year. The plan is to purchase 21 air packs after 3 years of placing money aside. The total cost to replace the air packs will be approximately \$84,000. They have a 15 year life span and cost about \$4,000 each. Air packs keep firefighters alive and they must be trained to operate them with their eyes closed. Purchasing a few each year would not work because technology changes so much. There was no discussion. Article 3 shall be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 4. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000.00) to be placed in the Fire Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established, for the purpose of the future acquisition of a new fire truck? The Selectmen were previously named as agents to expend from the fund. (Recommended by the Selectmen)

The Moderator read Article 4. Fire Chief Jeff Buxton stated this is a recurring warrant article for the future purchase of a fire truck. The cost of a new fire truck in seven years will be approximately \$500,000. He originally wanted to change the warrant article to \$50,000 but kept it at \$30,000 to spare the town the expense. Jeff added that he will be applying for grants for the air packs mentioned in the previous article. Article 4 shall be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 5. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty seven thousand, eight hundred dollars (\$27,800.00) to purchase a new police cruiser and authorize the withdrawal of seventeen thousand, eight hundred dollars (\$17,800.00) from the Police Cruiser Replacement Fund established in 2000 and ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00) from the Police Detail Account. **No funds will be raised by taxation.**  
(Recommended by the Selectmen)

The Moderator read Article 5. Chief Reed explained that there is an old way and a new way in which police cruisers are purchased. The old way was to put money aside each year in the Police Cruiser Replacement Fund established in 2000 and then make a purchase after a few years. The new way is to use money from a revolving account which is funded with police detail money and the purchase is made without raising taxes. The balance of the Police Cruiser Replacement Fund will be used in conjunction with money from the Police Detail Account for this purchase. There was no discussion and Article 5 shall be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 6. By Citizens Petition: Shall the Town of Newfields raise and appropriate two thousand seven hundred dollars (\$2,700.00) to purchase and install bat houses in the wetlands areas of the town as a one time, natural and cost effective way to help control the mosquito population? New Hampshire Fish and Game supports this project.  
(Recommended by the Selectmen)

The Moderator read Article 6. Gerald Kalish presented this petitioned warrant article but was not in attendance to discuss. Chairman Tom Hayward stated that the idea is to control the mosquito population by installing bat houses in strategic wetland areas in town. It may take years for the bats to populate. A local carpenter has offered to make the bat houses for a reasonable cost. He did not know how many bat houses were being purchased.

Sarah MacGregor commented that bats are being wiped out by white nose syndrome. She loves bats and has no problem with putting houses up but they may not control the mosquitoes. They are only out two hours a night flying. They don't eat bugs all night long. Also, the bat houses need to be hot to attract the bats.

Chris Wilson stated that if Fish and Game supports the project it must be a good idea.

David Dwyer asked if bat houses had been installed elsewhere to help control mosquitoes. The Selectmen did not believe so. Article 6 shall be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 7. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate eighteen thousand two hundred dollars (\$18,200.00) for the purpose of mosquito control by town wide adulticiding (truck spraying)? (Recommended by the Selectmen)

The Moderator read Article 7. There were no comments or questions. Article 7 shall be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 8. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate thirty two thousand dollars (\$32,000.00) for the purpose of mosquito control by targeting mosquito larvae (known as larviciding) and Arbovirus Surveillance (known as trapping and testing of mosquitoes)? (Recommended by the Selectmen)

The Moderator read Article 8. There were no comments or questions. Article 8 shall be placed on the ballot as written.

Article 9. Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) for Solid Waste Disposal for a Spring and/or Fall Cleanup event? (Recommended by the Selectmen)

The Moderator read Article 9. Chairman Hayward explained that last year we had a spring cleanup and had money left over but couldn't spend the extra money appropriated on a fall cleanup.

Article 10. To hear reports of agents and committees or officers heretofore chosen. There were no reports.

Article 11. To transact any other business which may legally come before the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.